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For Immediate Release: March 25, 2009 Contact: Jennifer Mieth, (978) 567-3381

Multiple Fatal Fire in Quincy

An early morning fire at 100 Robertson Street, Quincy took the lives of two children and an adult male. An adult woman was critically injured and transported to hospital. The fire is being investigated by the Quincy Fire and Police Departments, and State Police assigned to Norfolk District Attorney Keating's Office and to the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Investigators have determined the fire originated at a sofa in a living room area of the basement apartment. They are continuing to work on determining the specific cause of the fire. A final cause determination will not be made until the autopsies are complete and if possible, the surviving victim can be interviewed. There is nothing to indicate a suspicious cause to the fire.

The building had six living units but preliminary information from the Quincy Building Department indicates it was permitted for only four units. The circuit breaker for the hard-wired smoke alarms in the common hallways had been switched off rendering them inoperable. Investigators found some of the apartments had the required battery-operated smoke alarms in them. There is no evidence that there were any smoke alarms inside the basement apartment where the victims were found. The building inspector and fire code enforcement officials will share their findings with the district attorney's office to determine if any of the code violations rise to the level of criminal charges.

The identities of the victims will be determined by the medical examiner's office and released through the district attorney's office.